

OPINION 103

THE GENERIC NAME *Grus*, TYPE *Ardea grus*

SUMMARY.—The type of *Grus* Pallas, 1767, is *Ardea grus* Linn., 1758, by absolute tautonymy. *Grus* is hereby placed in the Official List of Generic Names.

PRESENTATION OF CASE.—Dr. Witmer Stone of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, requests an opinion on the type of *Grus*. His presentation of case is as follows:

Application of Generic Name Grus.

In his *Systema Natura*, 1758, Linnaeus divides the genus *Ardea* into four sections, *Cristatae*, *Grues*, *Ciconiac*, and *Ardeae*.

(1) Are any of these citable as genera? The last three seem to be exactly parallel to the divisions of *Simia* regarded as subgenera by Stiles and Orleman (*Jour. of Mam.* Feb. 1926).

(2) If not citable from here, are not *Grus* and *Ciconia* citable from Pallas (*Spicilegia Zool.* IV, p. 1, 1767) as covering the species included in Linnaeus' groups?

Pallas in his work discusses and describes a new species *Grus psophia* and the genus *Grus* has recently been quoted from here as applying solely to this species (the only one mentioned) thus becoming a synonym of *Psophia*.

Previously it was regarded as applying to all the species of Linnaeus' section *Grues*, and *Ardea grus* was by tautonymy the type. This I think is the correct view. Pallas states that the birds included in *Ardea* by Linnaeus are divisible into three genera and then cites *Ardeae*, *Ciconiac* and *Grues*—the three Linnaean groups and refers to "Gruibus reliquis" in describing and comparing his new and evidently aberrant species.

DISCUSSION OF CASE.—by Commissioner Stejneger.

THE TYPE OF *Grus* PALLAS, 1767, IS *Ardea grus* LINNAEUS, 1758.

The question of the recognition of the quasigeneric names which Linnaeus and subsequent authors of the eighteenth century applied to sectional divisions of genera without apparent intention to use them nomenclatorially is so complicated and requires such extensive research, not only as to the manner of their application by these authors themselves, but particularly as to the effect their legitimation at this late date would have upon already otherwise stabilized and current nomenclature, that it is thought unwise to raise it with regard to a case which is susceptible of definite and identical settlement by other means.

The question laid before the Commission by Dr. Stone is essentially this:

What species is the type of the genus *Grus* instituted by Pallas in 1767?

The main object of Pallas' paper entitled "*Grus psophia*" (in *Spicilegia Zoologica*, fasc. 4, 1767, pp. 3-9, pl. 1) was to give a description of the bird hitherto known as *Psophia crepitans* based on autopsy of a fresh specimen of this then rare South American bird and to show that it does not constitute a separate genus, as postulated by Linné, but that it must be attached to one of the sections of the Linnaean genus *Ardea*, which Pallas, however, regards and names as a distinct genus *Grus*.

It therefore becomes necessary to review briefly the treatment accorded the two genera by Linné.

In 1758 (10 ed. *Syst. Nat.*, vol. 1, p. 154) Linnaeus has the genus *Psophia* (with one species: *crepitans*). The genus *Ardea*, with 19 species, is found on page 141. The latter Linné enumerated under four section headings as follows:

- x Cristatae: *rostro vix capite longiore* (species 1-2)
- xx Grues: *capite calvo* (species 3-6)
- xxx Ciconiae (species 7-8)
- xxxx Ardeae (species 9-19)

In the 12th Edition (pp. 263 and 233 respectively) the treatment is exactly the same, except that the section of *Ardeae* there includes eight more species (species 9-26) and that one species, *Ardea ibis*, has been transferred to the genus *Tantalus*.

Pallas begins his article as follows:

Aves ab Ill. LINNAEO sub *Ardearum* nomine recensitae constantius et evidentissimis characteribus in tria genera, ab antiquioribus jam olim Ornithologis agnita et judiciole adoptata, distingui possunt: *Ardearum* nempe *Ciconiarum* atque *Gruum*. (The birds enumerated by Linné under the name *Ardea* can be distinguished by constant and most obvious characters in three genera which were already recognized and judiciously adopted by the older ornithologists, viz.: *Ardea*, *Ciconia* and *Grus*.)

He then proceeds to enumerate the characters of these genera, including in *Ciconia* Linné's genus *Mycteria*, and in *Grus* the Linnaean genus *Psophia*, at the same time referring Linné's *Tantalus*, together with his *Ardea ibis* and *Ardea acquinotialis*, to *Numenius*. The sentence in which Pallas relegates the generic term *Psophia* to the synonymy of *Grus* (p. 4) reads as follows:

Ex autopsia quoque dedici, avem Americanam, quam PSOPHIAE nomine indigitarunt BARRERIIUS et post eum Linnaeus, non pro peculiaris generis ave habendum, sed *Gruibus* esse accessendam, quibus characteres, habitu, moribusque convenit. (From autopsy I have also learned that the American bird which Barrère, and after him Linné, have published under the name *Psophia*,

is not to be regarded as a separate genus but must be added to the *Grues*, with which it agrees in characters, habitus, and habits.)

All this by way of introduction to a minute description of the external characters and internal anatomy of a fresh specimen of a *Psophia* from the vivarium of the Prince of Orange, which forms the real object of the memoir, since no specimen had come under the eyes of any other zoologist since the time of Marcgrave and Barrère.

It is quite obvious that Pallas did not make *Grus* a monotypic genus with *psophia* as type. The argument that he mentions no other specific term in conjunction with the generic name cannot prevail against the fact that Pallas repeatedly refers to the existence of other *Grues*, and to the species enumerated by Linné in particular.

In addition to the previous quotations it is only necessary to cite the first paragraph of his "Descriptio Gruis Psophiae" (p. 7) which reads as follows:

Magnitudo circiter *Numenii Arquatae*; sed corpus paulo crassius atque brevius. *Proportiones* membrorum omnes longe breviores etiam sunt, quam in *Gruibus* reliquis; ceteroquin *habitus* consimilis. (Size about that of *Numenius arquata*; but the body a little heavier and shorter. All the proportions of the limbs are also much shorter than in the other *Grues*; habitus otherwise entirely similar.)

"The other *Grues*" refers plainly to the species enumerated by Linné in the tenth edition,¹ viz.: *Ardea canadensis*, *A. grus*, *A. americana*, and *A. antigone*.

The type of the genus *Grus* Pallas must therefore be looked for among one of these species (including of course *Grus psophia* Pallas) in which case *Ardea grus* Linné becomes the type by tautonymy.

REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY.—Commissioner Apstein (1915a, 195) agrees with Commissioner Stejneger that *grus* Linn., 1758, is a type of *Grus* Pallas, but both he and Sherborn date the latter as 1766, instead of 1767.

The Secretary views *Grus* as dating from Linn., 1758a, tat. *Ardea grus*.

As the argument by Stejneger and the data by Apstein give the same general results as the argument by the Secretary, and as the question of date appears to be non-essential in disposing of the case, the Secretary supports the conclusions by Stejneger and Apstein and does not emphasize his own view as to date.

The Secretary moves that:

If Commissioner Stejneger's Opinion on *Grus* is adopted by the Commission, the generic name *Grus* Pallas, 1766 or 1767, tat. *Ardea grus*, is hereby placed in the Official List of Generic Names.

¹ By referring specifically to *Ardea ibis*, see above, Pallas shows that he is dealing with the 10th edition though it makes no difference inasmuch as the 12th edition is identical in the treatment of the *Grues*.

The foregoing Opinion was submitted to the Commission in Circular Letter No. 112.

Opinion prepared by Commissioner Stejneger.

Opinion concurred in by sixteen (16) Commissioners, namely: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Dabbene, Handlirsch, Hartert, Horvath, Jordan (D. S.), Jordan (K.), Kolbe, Loennberg, Neveu-Lemaire, Stejneger, Stiles, Stone, and Warren.

Opinion dissented from by no Commissioners.

Not voting, two (2) Commissioners: Ishikawa, and Monticelli.

Secretary's motion concurred in by fifteen (15) Commissioners, namely: Apstein, Bather, Chapman, Dabbene, Handlirsch, Hartert, Horvath, Jordan (D. S.), Jordan (K.), Loennberg, Monticelli, Neveu-Lemaire, Stiles, Stone, and Warren.

Secretary's motion dissented from by no Commissioner.

Not voting, three (3) Commissioners: Kolbe, Stejneger, and Ishikawa.